

CLAIMS:

1. A communication system comprising:

a server having a service element for providing the service and a data
5 store for storing the identities of users of the communication system that are registered to the service;

a user terminal that is capable of initiating verification of the registration of
one or more users of the communication system to the service by transmitting to
the server one or more messages indicating the identities of the said one or more
10 users;

wherein:

the user terminal has a data store arranged for storing a plurality of user
identities forming a first set of users, and

the user terminal has a user interface arranged to present to a user of the
15 terminal a single command option in response to selection of which the user
terminal automatically transmits to the server one or more messages indicating
the user identities of the first set of users for verification of which users of the first
set are registered to the service.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the users that are registered to
20 the service form a second set of users and the server comprises verification
means for determining which users in the first set are also in the second set.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the server sends a result
25 message to the user terminal, the result message comprising the identities of the
users of the first set that are registered to the service.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein the user interface is arranged to
present to the user of the user terminal a further command option for selecting
30 which of the users of the first set that are registered to the service to subscribe to.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein each user terminal is a client terminal and the communication system operates in a client-server mode.

6. The system according to claim 5, wherein the client terminal is arranged to communicate with the server using a fixed line network.

7. The system according to claim 5, wherein the client terminal is arranged to communicate with the server using a wireless communication network.

8. The system according to any of claim 5, wherein the client terminal is arranged to communicate with the server using at least one of a CSP and a CLP protocol.

9. The system according to claim 1, wherein the server is a wireless village server and the service element provides a presence service.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein the presence service can provide information indicative of at least one of the following attributes: terminal availability, user status, user location, user moods and user interests.

11. The system according to claim 1, wherein the server is connected to a gateway server arranged to operate in a server-server mode.

12. The system according to claim 1, wherein each of the user identities is indicated by at least one of: a wireless village identifier, name, telephone number, IP address and email address.

13. The system according to claim 1, wherein each user identity having a plurality of telephone numbers associated therewith.

14. The system of claim 1 comprising a second user terminal which communicates with the user terminal via the server.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the server is capable of transferring substantially instant messaging between the user terminal and the second user terminal.

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16. The system of claim 15, wherein both of the user terminals are capable of sending presence data representing the status of their respective users to the server in an asynchronous manner, and the server is arranged to, on receiving that data, store that data, and subsequently, in response to the receiving a request from at least one of the user terminals for the presence data of the other user terminal, to transmit the stored presence data of the said other terminal in a substantially instant manner to the said one of the user terminals.

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17. A method for checking which users of a communications network are registered to a service of the network, the method comprising:

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storing the identities of the users of the communication network that are registered to the service in a server;

storing a plurality of user identities of the communications network in a user terminal as a first set of users;

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presenting a single command option via a user interface to a user of the user terminal;

in response to the selection of the command option, automatically transmitting one or more messages indicating the user identities of the first set of users to the server; and

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verifying by means of the server which users of the first set are registered to the service.

18. The method of claim 17, comprising the further steps of:

generating a third set of users of the communications network which are

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the users of the first set that are registered to the service;

sending said third set of users to the user terminal;

presenting a second command option via the user interface for allowing the user of the user terminal to select from said third set which of the registered users to subscribe to receive presence information on.

- 5 19. A user terminal capable of operation by a user for registering to a server of a communication network, the user terminal comprising:
- a data store for storing a plurality of identities of other users of the network;
- a user interface arranged to present to the user of the user terminal a single command option, and
- 10 a translation element for cooperating with the user interface such that upon selection of the single command by the user, the translation element generates one or more messages which are automatically transmitted from the user terminal to the server for verifying which of the other users are registered to the server.
- 15 20. The user terminal of claim 19, further comprising means for receiving from the server a result message indicating the identities of the other users that are also registered to the server.
21. The user terminal of claim 20, wherein the user interface is arranged to
- 20 present a second command option enabling the user to mark one or more of the user identities received in the result message and a third command option for automatically subscribing to said marked users.
22. The user terminal according to claim 21, wherein the network is capable of
- 25 supporting substantially real-time communications between the subscribed users.
23. The user terminal according to claim 21, wherein the server is an IMPS server which supports at least one of wireless instant messaging and presence data between the subscribed users.